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A new Chilean species of *Brontoliota* Thomas (Coleoptera: Silvanidae: Brontinae: Brontini)

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Abstract. *Brontoliota lawrencei* Thomas, **new species**, is described and illustrated from Chile, and the Chilean silvanid fauna is discussed.

Introduction

The New World has relatively few representatives of the silvanid tribe Brontini. A recent generic revision of the tribe (Thomas 2004) recorded just two genera, *Uleiota* Latreille and *Dendrophagus* Schönherr, from North America with a total of four species, and two from Chile, *Australohyliota* Thomas and *Microhyliota* Thomas, with a total of two species. Recently, a species of *Parahyliota* Thomas, a hitherto Asian and African genus, was described from Mexico (Thomas 2009). In this paper, I describe a new species of *Brontoliota* Thomas from Chile. *Brontoliota* was described (Thomas 2004) for three species endemic to northeastern Australia. All photographs were taken with a Syncroscopy AutoMontage® system attached to a Leica Z16 APO microscope.

Brontoliota lawrencei Thomas, new species

Figure 1-6

Diagnosis. From other brontine genera present in Chile, *Brontoliota* is easily distinguished by its flightlessness, body incrustation, and bud-vase-shaped antennal scape. From other members of *Brontoliota*, the new species is distinguished by having four lateral projections on the pronotum (versus six or seven in the Australian species).

Description. Holotype male, deposited in the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago, Chile, with the following label data: "CHILE: Punta Curiñanco (39°42.788S, 73°24.323W) 177m 9.i.2007 *Aextoxicum* forest, under bark & in rotten logs J.F. Lawrence coll."/"CHILE MNHN Tipo N° 6806"/"HOLOTYPE Brontoliota lawrencei Thomas 2009".

With the characteristics of Brontinae: Brontini: *Brontoliota* (Thomas 2004), plus: body (Fig. 1) elongate, parallel-sided, dorso-ventrally compressed; dark testaceous, legs and margins slightly paler, antennae darker. Length, 8.7mm.

Head transverse, markedly triangular in shape, widest across the densely setose, pronounced temples; frons above antennal insertions strongly elevated, densely punctate and setose, with a strongly impressed, curved, transverse groove between antennal insertions; surface otherwise appearing almost impunctate; surface smooth and shining, without microsculpture; with scattered thick, strongly curved, suberect setae, denser laterally and especially so along margins; eyes small, protuberant, set on short stalks; antennae filiform, about two-thirds length of body; scape as long as head, slightly sinuate, shaped like a bud-vase, densely, coarsely punctate; ratios of antennomeres 5.5:1:1.5:2.5:2.5:2.5:2.5:2:2:1.7:2.

Pronotum (Fig. 4) 1.28 × wider than long, more or less bluntly triangular in shape, widest at front, with four blunt lateral processes, the first long and relatively slender, the following three shorter; disk simple, slightly concave medially; appearing almost impunctate; surface smooth and shining, without microsculpture; with scattered thick, curved, suberect setae; setae denser laterally and especially so along margins.

Elytra 2.4 × longer than wide, basally narrowed, forming a neck-like region, then broadened and parallel-sided to about apical fifth, where they narrow to rounded apices; apices not individually produced;

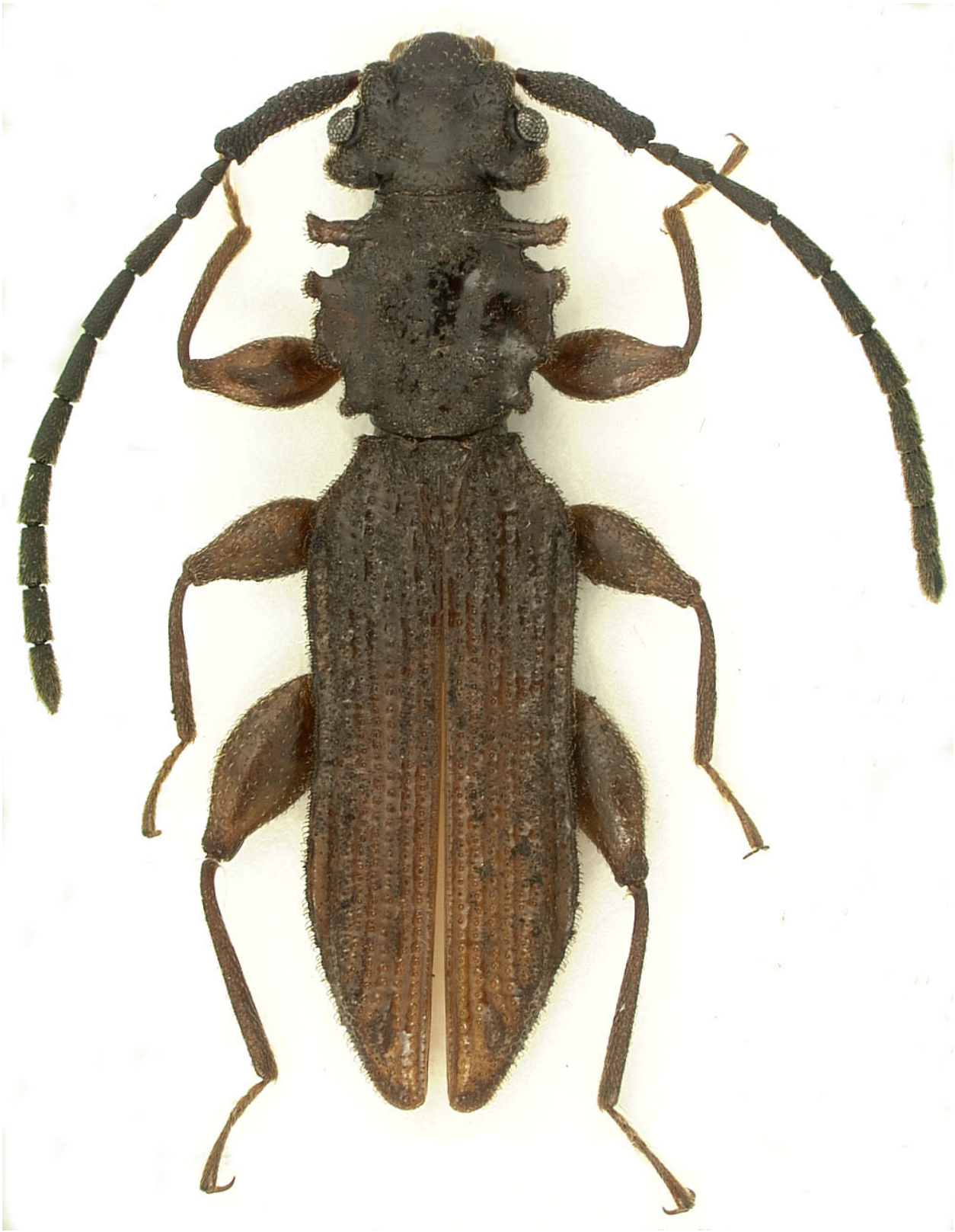

Figure 1. *Brontoliota lawrencei* Thomas, new species, male habitus.

Figure 2-5. *Brontoliota lawrencei* Thomas, new species. **2)** female habitus. **3)** female pronotum. **4)** male pronotum. **5)** elytral apices, female.

not fused; margins strongly explanate, almost horizontal from basal sixth to about apical fifth, where they abruptly descend; margins not tuberculate but heavily setose; third and fifth elytral intervals apically with blunt, setose tubercles (Fig. 5); seventh interval costate, more strongly so posteriorly. Hind wings absent; metaventrite very short.

Male genitalia (Fig.6) with apex of median lobe deeply, moderately broadly emarginate.

The female allotype (Fig.2), deposited in the Essig Museum, University of California, Berkeley, with same data as holotype, is similar to the male, differing as follows: Head 1.33 × wider than long, widest across eyes; antennae slightly shorter than in male. Pronotum (Fig. 3) 1.07 × wider than long, widest across anterior third; anterior process shorter than in male. Elytra 2.5 × longer than combined width. Length, 8.6mm.

Etymology. This species is named in honor of John F. Lawrence, its collector, in acknowledgment of his many important contributions to knowledge of the Coleoptera during his long career.

Discussion. Punta Curiñanco is located in the Valdivian Coastal Range in southern Chile, the area of highest endemism in Chile (The Nature Conservancy 2009). Chile has a curious silvanid fauna. Two of the Chilean brontine genera,*Brontoliota* and *Australohyliota*, have species in both Chile and Australia, while the monotypic *Microhyliota* is found in Chile exclusively. *Brontoliota* and *Australohyliota* do not appear to be especially closely related. The only other silvanid known from Chile is *Australophanus redtenbacheri* (Reitter), a member of the tribe Telephanini (Thomas and Nearns 2008). The entire subfamily Silvaninae is apparently absent from Chile, although well represented in the rest of South America and in Australia.

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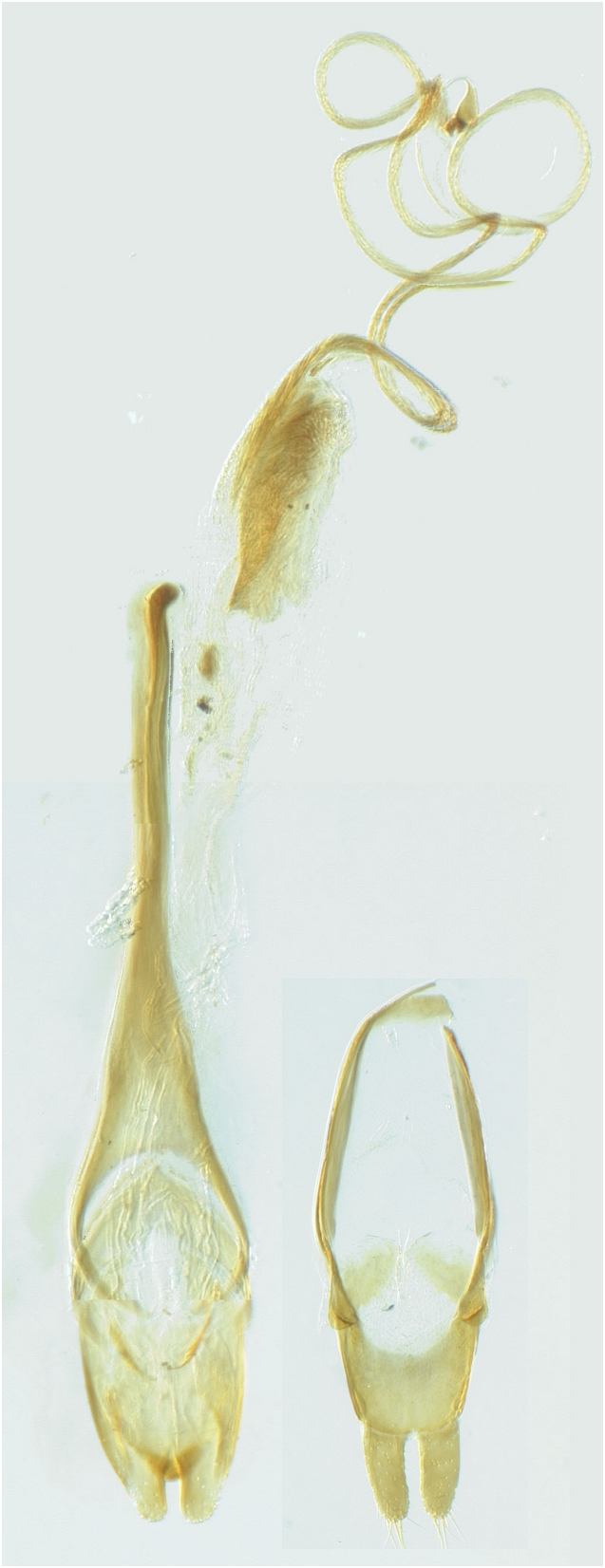

Figure 6. *Brontoliota lawrencei* Thomas, new species. Male genitalia.